

CATALOG DOCUMENTATION
NATIONAL COASTAL ASSESSMENT- NORTHEAST DATABASE
YEAR 2002 STATIONS
CRAB AND LOBSTER DATA; "CRAB_LOB"

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1. DATASET IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Title of Catalog document

National Coastal Assessment-Northeast Region Database
Year 2002 Stations
Crab and Lobster size data

1.2 Authors of the Catalog entry

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1.3 Catalog revision date

August 2007

1.4 Dataset name

CRAB_LOB

1.5 Task Group

National Coastal Assessment-Northeast

1.6 Data Set Identification Code

012

1.7 Version

001

1.8 Request for Acknowledgment

EMAP requests that all individuals who download EMAP data acknowledge the source of these data in any reports, papers, or presentations. If you publish these data, please include a statement similar to: "Some or all of the data described in this article were produced by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency through its Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP)".

2. INVESTIGATOR INFORMATION (for full addresses see Section 13)

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3. DATASET ABSTRACT

3.1 Abstract of the Dataset

The CRAB_LOB data file contains the common name, abundance, and carapace width (mm) of up to the approximately 30 crab or lobster caught in a standard trawl at a station. Scientific (Latin) names for the fish taxa can be found in the FISH_TAX table. One record is presented per taxa at a station.

3.2 Keywords for the Data Set

Crab lobster abundance

4. OBJECTIVES AND INTRODUCTION

4.1 Program Objective

The National Coastal Assessment (NCA) is a national monitoring and assessment program with the primary goal of providing a consistent evaluation of the estuarine condition in U.S. estuaries. It is an initiative of the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP), and is a partnership of several federal and state environmental agencies, including: EPA's Regions, Office of Research and Development, and Office of Water; state environmental protection agencies in the 24 marine coastal states and Puerto Rico; and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA). The NCA program was initiated in 2000, and known as the Coastal 2000 Program.

Stations were randomly selected using EMAP's probabilistic sampling framework and were sampled once during a summer index period (June to October). A consistent suite of indicators was used to measure conditions in the water, sediment, and in benthic and fish communities. The measured data may be used by the states to meet their reporting requirements under the Clean Water Act, Section 305(b). The data will also be used to generate a series of national reports characterizing the condition of the Nation's estuaries.

4.2 Data Set Objective

The objective of the CRAB_LOB is to record the size of crustaceans caught

at NCA stations.

4.3 Background Discussion

Refer to Section 4.4 for a list of dataset parameters. Additional information about selected parameters are discussed in this section.

The information collected in the fish surveys are reported in five data files. FTRAWL presents information regarding fish trawls and abundance of unique species per standard trawl. FISH_CNT contains the number of fish per species per standard trawl. FISH_LEN specifies fork length of individual fish and the frequency and location of pathologies observed in a ship-board inspection. CRAB_LOB presents size data for crustaceans caught in standard trawls. TISSCHEM reports the concentrations of about 75 chemical analytes measured in composites samples of fish, lobsters or crabs collected at a station. The lookup table FISH_TAX lists the common and scientific names of all fish identified in standard trawls.

The CRAB_LOB file reports the carapace widths of the first 30 (or so) Blue Crab or American Lobster caught in a standard trawl. (Horseshoe Crabs were also captured for ST_COOP = CT and CT_FSH.) FSEQNUM is a sequence number identifying individuals of a species at a station. The sex of the organism is reported only for sampling managed by ST_COOP = NY.

NCA planners provide two alternate locations for a station location in the event that the original location cannot be sampled. The parameter STA_ALT indicates whether the station location was the original site, first alternate, or second alternate—STA_ALT = "A", "B", or "C", respectively. Also refer to discussion in the STATIONS metadata file regarding use of this parameter during analysis of the data.

Massachusetts did not participate in the NCA program in 2002. Rhode Island conducted fish trawls only in 2002, and collected physical water parameters in conjunction with the trawls. Connecticut collected all parameters, but at an abbreviated group of in-shore stations (stations in the Long Island Sound intended for sampling in 2002 were sampled in 2003).

4.4 Summary of Data Set Parameters

- * denotes parameters that should be used as key fields when merging data files
 - *STATION Station identifier
 - *STAT_ALT Station Location (A,B or C)
 - *EVNTDATE Date of sampling event
 - FCOMNAME Taxa Common Name
 - FSEQNUM Sequence Number
 - C_WIDTH Carapace Width (mm)
 - SEX Sex of Animal

5. DATA ACQUISITION AND PROCESSING METHODS

5.1 Data Acquisition / Field Sampling

The sample collection methods used by USEPA trained field crews will be described here. NCA Standard trawls are identified by TRWLTYPE=NCA. Any significant variations by other NCA partners are noted in Section 5.1.12.

5.1.1 Sampling Objective

To collect a representative sample of fish at a station using a standard trawl. Additional nonstandard trawls were conducted when necessary to collect enough fish for chemical analyses.

5.1.2 Sample Collection and Ship-Board Processing: Methods Summary

The EPA standard fish trawl was conducted using a funnel-shaped net that filters fish from the near bottom waters. Fish were herded into the net by ground wire and an overhanging panel. Standard trawls were 10 ± 2 minutes in duration with a towing speed of 2-3 knots through the water against the prevailing current (1-3 knots relative to the bottom). An auxiliary, nonstandard trawl was performed to collect fish for tissue chemistry samples if an insufficient quantity were obtained in the standard trawl. Fish from the auxiliary trawls were used for chemical analyses only, and were not included in the standardized survey counts used to characterize the fish community structure.

All fish caught in a standard trawl were counted on board ship and immediately identified using the scientific and common names listed in the FTAXON file. Fork lengths (carapace widths for crabs and lobster) in mm were measured on approximately the first 30 individuals of each species found at a station. A visual inspection for obvious signs of pathology was conducted on all fish measured for length. A subset of fish, crabs, or lobster were randomly chosen for chemical analysis. These test organisms were tagged and frozen individually, then combined into groups of 2-10 organisms of same species for later processing as composite samples. Each group was assigned a composite ID (SAMPLEID) and sent to the analytical lab for chemical analysis.

5.1.3 Beginning Sampling Dates

25 June 2002

5.1.4 Ending Sampling Dates

31 October 2002

5.1.5 Sampling Platform

All program partners collected samples from various gasoline or diesel powered boats, 25 to 27 feet in length.

5.1.6 Sampling Equipment

The trawl net consisted of a funnel-shaped high-rise sampling trawl. The net includes a 16 meter tow line, a chain sweep, 5 cm mesh wings, and a 2.5 cm cod end.

5.1.7 Manufacturer of Sampling Equipment

Not applicable

5.1.8 Key Variables

Not applicable

5.1.9 Sample Collection: Calibration

The sampling gear does not require calibration.

5.1.10 Sample Collection: Quality Control

A trawl was considered void if one or more of the following conditions occurred:

1. Trawl could not be completed because of boat malfunction, vessel traffic, or major disruption of gear
2. Boat speed exceeded the prescribed range
3. The cod-end became untied
4. The net was filled with mud or debris
5. A portion of the catch was lost prior to processing
6. The tow lines became separated
7. The net was torn in a way that significantly altered net efficiency

If a successful trawl could not be performed within 1½ hours, the site was considered unsampleable. Quality assurance audits were performed to verify the identification and measurement techniques of the field crew.

5.1.11 Sample Collection: References

Strobel, C.J. 2000. Coastal 2000-Northeast Component: Field Operations Manual U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Atlantic Ecology Division, Narragansett, RI. EPA/620/R-00/002.

5.1.12 Sample Collection: Alternate Methods

Trawl records with the following Trawl Codes did not follow NCA standards.

TRLTYPE	Name	Description
CT	Connecticut Fish Survey Trawl	30 minutes standard
RI	Rhode Island Fish Survey Trawl	20 minutes standard
MA	MA Fish Survey Trawl (2000 only)	20 minutes standard
NH	New Hampshire modified Standard	4 minutes standard

5.2 Data Preparation and Sample Processing

All parameters reported in this file were measured aboard ship immediately following the trawl (see Section 5.1).

5.2.1 Sample Processing Objective

Not applicable

5.2.2 Sample Processing: Methods Summary

Not applicable

5.2.3 Sample Processing: Calibration

Not applicable

5.2.4 Sample Processing: Quality Control

Not applicable

5.2.5 Sample Processing: References

Not applicable

5.2.6 Sample Processing: Alternate Methods

Not applicable

6. DATA ANALYSIS AND MANIPULATIONS

6.1 Name of New or Modified Values

Not applicable

6.2 Data Manipulation Description

Not applicable

7. DATA DESCRIPTION

7.1 Description of Parameters

7.1.1 Components of the Data Set

NAME	TYPE	LENGTH	LABEL
STATION	Char	9	Station Identifier
STAT_ALT	Char	1	Station Location
EVNTDATE	Num	8	Date of Sampling
FCOMNAME	Char	30	Fish Taxa Common
FSEQNUM	Num	4	Fish Sequence Number
SEX	Char	8	Sex of Animal
C_WIDTH	Num	4	Carapace Width (mm)

7.1.2 Precision of Reported Values

As displayed in Section 7.1.3 and 7.1.4.

7.1.3 Minimum Value in Data set

Variable	Minimum Value
FSEQNUM	1
C_WIDTH	37

7.1.4 Maximum Value in Data set

Variable	Maximum Value
FSEQNUM	26
C_WIDTH	346

7.2 Data Record Example

STATION	STAT_ALT	EVNTDATE	FCOMNAME	FSEQNUM	SEX	C_WIDTH
DE02-0053	A	8/1/2002	BLUE CRAB	1		148
DE02-0053	A	8/1/2002	BLUE CRAB	2		155
DE02-0053	A	8/1/2002	BLUE CRAB	3		152

8. GEOGRAPHIC AND SPATIAL INFORMATION

8.1 Minimum Longitude (Westernmost)

-75.7737 decimal degrees

8.2 Maximum Longitude (Easternmost)

-67.0939 decimal degrees

8.3 Minimum Latitude (Southernmost)
38.4521 decimal degrees

8.4 Maximum Latitude (Northernmost)
44.9456 decimal degrees

8.5 Name of area or region
The National Coastal Assessment Northeast Region covers the northeastern US coastline from Maine to Delaware.

9. QUALITY CONTROL AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

9.1 Measurement Quality Objectives

9.2 Data Quality Assurance Procedures
Inspection of the sampling gear for tears or improper assemblage is done at the beginning of every trawl event.

10. DATA ACCESS

10.1 Data Access Procedures
Data can be downloaded from the web
<http://www.epa.gov/emap/nca/html/regions/index.html>

10.2 Data Access Restrictions
None

10.3 Data Access Contact Persons
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10.4 Dataset Format
ASCII (CSV) and SAS Export files

10.5 Information Concerning Anonymous FTP
Not available

10.6 Information Concerning WWW
No gopher access, see Section 10.1 for WWW access

10.7 EMAP CD-ROM Containing the Dataset
Data not available on CD-ROM

11. REFERENCES

Strobel, C.J. 2000. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program: Coastal 2000 - Northeast component: field operations manual. Narragansett (RI): U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Atlantic Ecology Division. EPA/620/R-00/002. 68 p.

U.S. EPA. 2001. National Coastal Assessment: Field Operations Manual. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Gulf Ecology Division, Gulf Breeze, FL. EPA/620/R-01/003. 72 p.

U.S. EPA. 2001. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP): National Coastal Assessment Quality Assurance Project Plan 2001-2004. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Gulf Ecology Division, Gulf Breeze, FL. EPA/620/R-01/002. 189 p.

12. TABLE OF ACRONYMS

AED	Atlantic Ecology Division
DE	Delaware
CSC	Computer Sciences Corporation
CT	Connecticut
EMAP	Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
MA	Massachusetts
ME	Maine
mm	Millimeters
NCA	National Coastal Assessment
NH	New Hampshire
NHEERL	National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory
NJ	New Jersey
NY	New York
NYC	New York City
PA	Pennsylvania
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
RI	Rhode Island
UNH	University of New Hampshire
WWW	World Wide Web

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